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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/721,468	11/22/2000	Katsuyoshi Kondoh	70868-55057	3047
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EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP P.O. BOX 55874 BOSTON, MA 02205				
			EXAMINER EBRAHIMI DEHKORDY, SAEID	
			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/721,468

Applicant(s)

KONDOH, KATSUYOSHI

Examiner

Saeid Ebrahimi-dehKordy

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5,7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohki et al (U.S. Patent 6,636,647) in view of Hart et al (U.S. patent 5,694,494)

Regarding claim 1 and 19 Ohki et al disclose: A reading apparatus comprising: a storage portion in which mask data to be superimposed on read out image data is stored (please note column Fig.7 column 7 lines 42-43 where the data to be merged of superimposed is stored) and a control portion for controlling an entirety of the apparatus (please note Fig.7 item 101, column 7 lines 59-61) wherein the control portion superimposes the mask data on the image data (please note column 5 lines 4-17 where the image A and B are superimposed) and deletes a part of image data covered with the mask data to thereby extract the data entered in the form from the image data (please note column 53-57). However Ohki et al does not disclose: a reading portion for reading data entered in a form where a predetermined layout is printed. On the other hand Hart et al disclose: a reading portion for reading data entered in a form where a predetermined layout is printed (please note column 2 lines 51-55 where the images are being read and scanned on both forms blank and completed forms).

Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in art at the time of the invention to modify Ohki et al's invention according to the teaching of Hart et al, where Hart et al in the same filed of endeavor teach the way the images and formed are being scanned for the purpose of superimposing and masking procedures.

Regarding claim 2 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control portion reads a layout code previously printed on the form by the reading portion, and reads mask data of the layout corresponding to the layout code from the storage portion (please note column 7 lines 38-51)

Regarding claim 3 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control portion reads a detection mark previously printed on the form by the reading portion and corrects position and inclination of the image data (please note column 5 lines 44-51).

Regarding claim 4 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control portion reads a detection mark previously printed on the form by the reading portion and corrects position and inclination of the image data (please note column 5 lines 53-56).

Regarding claim 5 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control portion reads the detection mark previously printed on the form by the reading portion and adjusts the size of the image data and the size of the mask data read from the storage portion to each other (please note column 7 lines 59-65).

Regarding claim 6 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control portion reads the detection mark previously printed on the form by the

reading portion and adjusts the size of the image data and the size of the mask data read from the storage portion to each other (please note column 6 lines 36-50)

Regarding claim 7 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 3, wherein the control portion reads the detection mark previously printed on the form by the reading portion and adjusts the size of the image data and the size of the mask data read from the storage portion to each other (please note column 16 lines 19-26).

Regarding claim 8 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 4, wherein the control portion reads the detection mark previously printed on the form by the reading portion and adjusts the size of the image data and the size of the mask data read from the storage portion to each other (please note column 7 lines 38-45).

Regarding claim 9 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control portion reads a print magnification previously printed on the form by the reading portion, and reads from the storage portion the mask data of a size corresponding to the print magnification (please note column 10 lines 13-23).

Regarding claim 10 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control portion reads a print magnification previously printed on the form by the reading portion, and reads from the storage portion the mask data of a size corresponding to the print magnification (please note column 7 lines 52-65).

Regarding claim 11 Ohki et al disclose: apparatus of claim 3, wherein the control portion reads a print magnification previously printed on the form by the reading portion and reads from the storage portion the mask data of a size corresponding to the print

magnification (please note column (please note column 11 lines 63-67 and column 12 lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 12 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 4, wherein the control portion reads a print magnification previously printed on the form by the reading portion, and reads from the storage portion the mask data of a size corresponding to the print magnification (please note column 10 lines 12-20).

Regarding claim 13 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 1, wherein in the storage portion, mask data of thicker entry box lines than the entry box lines of the layout printed on the form is stored (please note column 7 lines 38-52).

Regarding claim 14 Hart et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 2, wherein in the storage portion, mask data of thicker entry box lines than the entry box lines of the layout printed on the form is stored (please note column 6 lines 7-13).

Regarding claim 15 Hart et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 3, wherein in the storage portion, mask data of thicker entry box lines than The entry box lines of the layout printed on the form is stored (please note column 4 lines 46-60).

Regarding claim 16 Hart et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 4, wherein in the storage portion, mask data of thicker entry box lines than the entry box lines of the layout printed on the form is stored (please note column 4 lines 13-36).

Regarding claim 17 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 4, wherein the mask data is data of print areas of the predetermined layout code and detection marks (please note column 4 lines 55-67 and column 5 lines 1-16).

Regarding claim 18 Ohki et al disclose: The reading apparatus of claim 16, wherein the mask data is data of print areas of the predetermined layout, layout code and detection marks (please note column 5 lines 44-65).

Regarding claim 20 Ohki et al disclose: The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the layout management means registers a layout where parts for data entry are enlarged and an original layout where the parts are not enlarged so as to be associated with each other (please note column 9 lines 45-54).

Contact Information

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Saeid Ebrahimi-Dehkordy* whose telephone number is (703) 306-3487.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams, can be reached at (703) 305-4863.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, or (703) 308-9052 (for **formal** communications; please mark
"EXPEDITED PROCEDURE")

Or:


(703) 306-5406 (for **informal** or **draft** communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

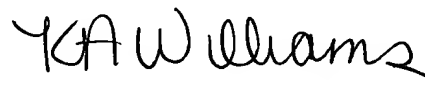
Art Unit: 2626

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

Saeid Ebrahimi-Dehkordy
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2626
September 22, 2004




KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER